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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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**TRANSMITTAL
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(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/412,202
Filing Date	October 5, 1999
First Named Inventor	Ira A. Gerson
Group Art Unit	2747 2644
Examiner Name	na
Attorney Docket Number	04776.81656

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 8

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

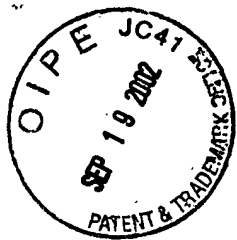
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: Ira A. Gerson
Serial No. 09/412,202
Filing Date: October 5, 1999

Examiner: V. Chawan
Art Group: 2654
Docket No. 04776.81656

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING AN INPUT SPEECH
DURING PRESENTATION OF AN OUTPUT AUDIO SIGNAL**

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 15, 2002, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Response.

In The Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended One Time) A method for processing an input speech signal during presentation of an output audio signal, the method comprising steps of:

- B1
- detecting a start of the input speech signal;
 - determining, relative to the output audio signal, an input start time of the start of the input speech signal; and
 - providing the input start time to establish a context in responding to the input speech signal.